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### Spectacular electronics theater coming to UM

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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This release is available electronically on INN (News Net.)

May 18, 2000

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### **SPECTACULAR ELECTRONIC THEATER COMING TO UM**

#### **MISSOULA —**

The University Theater will blaze with outstanding NASA imagery May 30 when the traveling Earth Science Electronic Theater comes to The University of Montana. Sponsored by UM's Earth Observing System Education Project, the free event will be featured in two shows at 7 and 8:30 p.m. and is open to all ages.

"Visions of Our Planet's Atmosphere, Land and Oceans: Electronic Theater 2000" is fueled by a graphics supercomputer that projects images on a huge panoramic screen. Emceed by Fritz Hasler, research meteorologist for the NASA/Goddard Laboratory for Atmospheres, the program includes some of the most spectacular images ever taken of the Earth, from killer hurricanes to ocean vortexes.

Hasler will illustrate how computer imagery now allows viewers to hone in on Big Sky Country and Missoula from outer space. Watchers also will zoom in on major cities and the eye of the storm using spy-satellite technology.

Lauren Mackay, EOS Education Project communication director, said the Missoula area is fortunate to get the electronic theater, which is requested around the world and was recently presented at the U.S. Naval Academy; Johannesburg, South Africa; and Melbourne, Australia.

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She said Hasler is famous for his images and animations of severe storms, which have appeared on television programs such as "National Geographic Explorer," "CNN Network Earth" and Steven Spielberg's "Seaquest." His images recently have graced the covers of "TIME," "Newsweek" and "National Geographic" and were included in a collection of great images of the 20th century.

The theater is a presentation of NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the American Meteorological Society.

The EOS Education Project was formed at UM to disseminate Earth Science imagery and supportive curricula to the global educational community. The department distributes data obtained from NASA's Earth Observing System, a series of satellites now being launched. It also provides training for teachers interested in bringing this information and innovative new technologies into the everyday classroom.

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